

**December Meeting**

Tuesday, December 8

6:00 PM

\*\*\*\*\*

**Holiday Party**

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**  
1035 Carol Lane  
Lafayette, CA

The club will hold its annual Holiday Party on Tuesday, December 8. The doors open at 6:00 pm and dinner starts at 7:00 pm. Please call George Roush to register.

**Presidential QRM**

By Sam Lipson, K06JR

As I look back on the last 24 months I see a Club which has gone through many changes. We got our antennas back on the tower, however we did it with substantial financial impact. We reorganized the club to bring all operations under the direction of the Club, again not without controversy. We moved PACIFICON from the Hilton to the Sheraton. All of these changes were good for the club, but as always, change isn't easy to cope with.

What I would like to see for the next administration is continued growth and change of our great club. We have a lot of potential still waiting in the wings to be released and used. Get involved with your club and make it even better than it is today.

I want to thank you all for allowing me to serve as President of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club during its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and also during its 50<sup>th</sup> year of affiliation with the ARRL. Both of these honors come only once in a lifetime.

I hope to see all of you at the holiday party and as active members of our club.  
73, Sam

**Greg Estep, KE6VTA, MDARC President 1999**

By Dick Schulze, AA6DL

Greg was born and raised in San Diego the first of six children. Greg's father was Field Engineer for San Diego Gas & Electric Company. His mother was a substitute school teacher in the San Diego school system, a fact Greg did not know until his school years were almost over. On the days she substituted she carefully got the children off to school and then left for school herself. She did not want her status as a teacher to compromise her children's relationship with the other children at school. After many years it was an interesting surprise over some incident at school when this fact unfolded. One can imagine the thoughts that started with, "I wonder if she also knew about...."

Greg graduated from San Diego State in 1973 with a degree in mathematics with honors. He moved to the Bay Area first working for Crocker Bank in the computer department on the Operating System for the ATM network and in 1980 taking a job with Chevron. He works on most of Chevron's computer systems and currently is on the team to make the system year 2000 compliant.

Greg and his wife Cheryl have three children. He was first licensed in June 1995. He has served as Treasurer of MDARC since 1996 and the unflappable chair of PACIFICON for the past two years. He was elected president of MDARC for 1999 in a landslide vote.

Greg's hobby before Amateur Radio was computers and he has a large collection of them. Although he did finally surrender the first PC Chevron ordered to the Chevron archives. He also enjoys hiking in the Sierra where he has spent many summers.

The easiest way to catch Greg is via email. Your best shot during the day is, [gres@chevron.com](mailto:gres@chevron.com). He can also be contacted at [grestep@home.com](mailto:grestep@home.com) anytime. Drop him a line and let him know what you would like MDARC to tackle.

**From the Repeater Committee**

By Jim Brunk, Chairman

**Repeater Malfunction Protocol (Who to Call When the Machines Don't Work)**

If there is a malfunction with any of the repeaters or nodes, page Barry Winkler at 925-753-2668. If there is no call back by 30 minutes, call Howard Burk at 925-798-7208. If there is no call back by 30 minutes, call Jim Brunk at 925-372-8248. If there is no call back in 30 minutes, contact one of the control operators.

If there is a malfunction, please make the call. Do not hesitate to call thinking that

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## Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX

P.O. Box 23222  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
(925) 932-6125

The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and space is available.

All material must be submitted to the editor by the first of day of the month of publication. Material is accepted on a first-in, first-out basis. Articles and other material may be submitted via Internet email to w6uv@home.com (preferred), w6uv@dnai.com, or delivered to the editor at the address listed below. Material will be accepted in plain ASCII, Word for Windows, or WordPerfect format. Material may also be submitted as hardcopy.

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### Club Officers

#### President

**Sam Lipson, KO6JR** (925) 229-5705

#### Vice President

**Stu Cannon, KE6OFD** (925) 930-0411

#### Secretary

**Paul Dickey, N6JOX** (925) 376-3971

#### Treasurer

**Greg Estep, KE6VTA** (925) 830-8615

#### Emergency Coordinator

**Robert Hampton, KF6FGH** (925) 625-4033

### Directors

**John Stuart, KM6QX** (925) 283-2797

**Ed Ritchie, K6SFD** (925) 837-3265

**Cal Groom, KE6OEH** (925) 439-7843

**Keith Lattin, N6PMF** (925) 427-1651

#### Membership Chairman

**Pete Smith, W6NZY** (925) 680-7106

#### Public Service

**Jeff Hart, KF6EUM** (925) 798-9281

### Carrier Editor

**Jerry Gardner, W6UV** (925) 735-7325  
2236 Tahiti Drive  
San Ramon, CA 94583  
w6uv@home.com

### Rocky Ridge Repeater Committee

#### Chairman

**Jim Brunk, N6BHX** (925) 372-8248

#### Technical Manager

**Barry Winkler, KC6WYA** (925) 427-2121

### W6CX Repeaters

147.060/+ (100 PL)

224.780/- (077 PL)

441.325/+ (100 PL)

ATV: In 1253.25 Out 427.25 (Cable Channel 58)

someone else will have already called. We would rather have duplicate calls than have no calls.

### Control Operators

1. Howard Burk, KE6PTT, 925-798-7208
2. Jay Caldis, KT6Y, 925-939-1893
3. Ed Richie, K6SDF, 925-837-3265
4. Barry Winkler, KC6WYA, 925-427-2121
5. Jim Brunk, N6BHX, 925-372-8248
6. Keith Lattin, N6PMF, 925-427-1651
7. Jim Tittle, KC6SOE, 925-432-3220
8. Dick Schulze, AA6DL, 925-935-5000

## MDARC Board Meeting Minutes

November 9, 1998

### Board Members Attending

Ed Ritchie, K6SFD, John Stuart, KM6QX, Greg Estep, KE6VTA, Sam Lipson, KO6JR, Keith Lattin, N6PMF

### Other Members Attending

Dick Schulze, AA6DL, Dick Brown, KT6X, Marie Lewis, KE6GLV, Tracey Swartz, KE6TOT, Jim Brunk, N6BHX, Mike Patterson, KE6JGA, George Roush, WB6OFH

### Social Committee

Tracey recommended a new person for the social committee. It was agreed that she can make that decision. George noted that the Christmas Party is scheduled for December 8 at the church starting at 6:30. The church has not been paid yet for the event. Lauren is to do that.

### Repeaters Committee

- 440 power level has been restored and is now operating temporarily with a borrowed power supply from Barry.
- A repeater malfunction protocol will be published by the Repeater Committee. It will tell users how to contact the responsible committee members if the systems fail or if they are experiencing problems.
- Most projects now underway will be completed by the end of the year including the 440 permanent amplifier, the 220 machine replacement and the new bottles for the 2 meter machine.

### PACIFICON Committee

- Sam read a letter from the Boy Scouts in Napa. They were very pleased with the convention and the treatment they received from everyone.
- Dick announced that we have received requests for booths next year. Gregg indicated that:
- E-mails were very positive
- Not a big financial success but the financial numbers are not complete.
- Hotel will not pay for the exhibitor hanger rental next year
- The next meeting of the PACIFICON committee is Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of November at Emil Villas on Willow Pass at 8:00 AM.

### Treasurer's Report

We have a cash balance of \$26,320. This figure does not include the PACIFICON account balance.

### VE Testing Committee

A concern has been raised that our VE Team has not had an adequate number of VE's in attendance during our exam sessions prior to the monthly club

*continued on page 5*

*Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club  
Holiday Party*

*December 8th at 6:00 pm  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette*

*Main Dish  
Complete Ham Dinner  
(Turkey on Advance Request)*

*Doors Open at 6pm  
Dinner at 7pm*

*Contact George Roush  
510-687-0912  
Before December 1st*

Please register me for the Holiday Party.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call \_\_\_\_\_

Number in my party \_\_\_\_\_ (member and immediate family)

Mail to: George Roush, WB6OFH, 2116 Athene Drive, Concord, CA 94519-2231  
or call George (or Bertha) at (510) 687-0912.

## MDARC General Meeting Minutes

November 20, 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Sam Lipson, KO6JR, at 8:00 pm. Sam announced that the balloting for the 1999 slate of officers would close at 8:15 and the nominating committee would count the ballots at that time.

Sam asked for a motion to purchase 61 Pacifcon T-shirts for \$305 which were offered by the vendor for that price. The plan will be to sell them to members at cost. The motion was **passed** by the membership. Greg Estep, KE6VTA, then offered the T-shirts for sale for \$5 each.

Greg also noted, in connection with Pacifcon, that they had received a nice thank-you letter from the Boy Scouts for the help with their Jamboree On The Air, held on the same weekend, with the local participants headquartered at Pacifcon. The local JOTA participation is coordinated by Mike Grcevich, KB6USJ.

Tracey Schwartz, KE6TOT, reminded members of the need to sign up for the holiday party, to be held on Dec. 8. There is no cost to members, but advance sign-ups are needed to provide numbers for food preparation.

Greg Estep announced next year's co-chairmen of Pacifcon are Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, and Shirley McKenzie,

KE6SQV.

Jim Brunk, N6BHX, reminded members that disruption of the repeaters should be reported to Howard Burk, KE6PTT, Chief Control Operator. The RRR Committee will be publishing a malfunction protocol soon.

Sam noted that he would be taking over the membership job, and would be sending out renewal notices shortly.

John Schulze, KF6MNL, described the evening's prizes.

Lauren Styles, WA6CIE, noted that the report of Field Day, 1998, was in the current QST, and showed MDARC in 11th place in the 5A category.

Stu Cannon, KE6OFD, announced the

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Victory Blvd. at Buena Vista  
1 mi. west I-5

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(800) 854-6046  
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I-880 at 23rd Ave. ramp

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from Hwy. 5 & 217

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Joe, KD0GA, Mgr.

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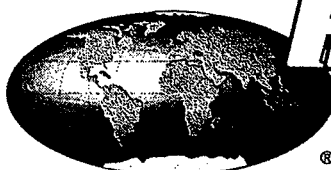
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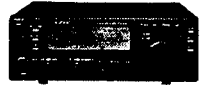
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- 200 Memos, Cloneable
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evening's speaker would be Bobby McDonald, W6JYT, from Delta RF Technologies, Inc., speaking on RF solid state power supplies.

The Treasurer's report was given by Greg Estep. He also introduced Marie Lewis, KF6GLV, the candidate for Treasurer for this next year.

Sam presented the plaque that the club received at Pacificon from the ARRL, commemorating the club's 50 years of ARRL affiliation.

Sam noted the Nominating Committee had concluded the counting of ballots and had presented the following results: Officers for 1999 are: President, Greg Estep, KE6VTA, Vice-President, Mike Patterson, KE6JGA, Secretary, Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Treasurer, Marie Lewis, KF6GLV, Emergency Coordinator, Robert Hampton, KF6FGH, Directors, John Stuart, KM6QX, and Ed Ritchie, K6SFD.

Sam shared letters of thanks (in addition to the one from BSA) from Silverado ARS for the club's work on Pacificon, and from the Get Dirty Trail Adventure for public service communications and especially for John Stuart's (KM6QX) help.

Sam adjourned the meeting at 8:37 p.m. for refreshments and a talk from Bobby McDonald.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Dickey, N6JOX, Secretary



## MDARC Board Minutes

*continued from page 2*

meetings. The problem does not seem to be the lack of VE's available but may be a scheduling problem. A proposal was discussed to alternate our VE sessions with the Sunnyvale group. There was considerable discussion and it was decided to table the discussion until the VE Chairman could participate.

### New Business

A plaque was presented at PACIFICON to the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club for 50 years of service to the ham community from the ARRL. Brad Wyatt made the presentation to Sam Lipson. A certificate was included and that will be forwarded to the Web Page Committee for display on the Web Page. It was decided that the plaque will be cared for by the current President of the Club.

### PACIFICON Tee Shirts

One of the exhibitors at PACIFICON prepared and sold tee shirts with the PACIFICON logo on it. He sold over 350 shirts. He had some left over and the Board met during the convention and agree to purchase the balance of 61 shirts from the exhibitor. It is planned to sell the shirts at a cost of \$5.00. A proposal to that effect will be made to the membership at the next meeting.

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Mon - Fri, 10:00 - 5:30, Sat: 9:00 - 4:00

In downtown Concord between Willow Pass Road and Concord Blvd.



# Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club Repeater Operation Rules

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club maintains and operates high-quality, wide-coverage repeaters for the use of all amateur radio operators. Operation and use of these repeaters shall comply fully with the Amateur Radio Service (Part 97) regulations of the Federal Communications Commission's Private Radio Service, and the following rules of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club:

1. The repeaters are provided for the purposes of contacting and passing information between fellow amateur radio operators, and providing service to the public as a voluntary, noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.
2. In the spirit of the Amateur Radio Service, users shall respect and support each other in a courteous and positive manner.
3. Due to the wide coverage of the repeaters and the club's large membership, the length of QSOs should be kept to a minimum. Conversations shall be limited to 10 minutes during commute hours; 6:00-9:00 am and 4:00-7:00 pm. Operators should always pause before transmitting, to allow another station to break in. Please use simplex frequencies or HF bands for "rag-chewing."
4. Operators shall announce their call sign before transmitting any touch-tone commands, at the end of each communication, and every ten minutes or less during a communication.
5. There shall be absolutely no communications containing obscene, indecent, or profane words, language, or meaning. Discussion of political or potentially sensitive social issues shall be avoided.
6. No one shall cause or condone the malicious or intentional interference of anyone's communications on the repeaters.
7. Operators shall not communicate with, or discuss the actions of, anyone who violates these rules.
8. Control Operators are required to turn off a repeater to terminate improper operation or use.
9. The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors reserves the right to forbid the use of the repeaters by anyone who repeatedly violates these rules, or anyone who facilitates or encourages others to violate these rules.

## 1999 Program Chairman Suggestions

Mike passed out a proposed list of possible talks to be given at future general meetings. Everyone was enthusiastic about the selections on Mike's list.

## 1999 Budget

Greg reviewed a proposed budget. Several changes were made to the proposal.

A motion was moved, seconded and approved to accept the modified Operating Budget for the club and the repeater group plus \$1500 for Miscellaneous Equipment replacement. It will be published in the January *Carrier* and presented to the membership at the January meeting. The approved proposal contained \$1,500 for work on the Trailer. Keith agreed that he will review the details of the project in the next two weeks and get an improved budget to Greg for publication.

The Capital Projects Budget related to the repeater equipment was discussed. A motion, seconded and approved to budget \$1000.00 for the ATV Microwave system and \$750.00 for mobile DF equipment. This will be brought to the membership at the January meeting for approval. After considerable discussion it was agreed that other Capital Projects may be brought to the Board at any time during the year by the Repeater Committee with detailed plans for implementation and cost.

Minutes Submitted by  
Dick Brown, KT6X, acting Secretary

## Ramblings from the Editor

By Jerry Gardner, W6UV

Let me start off by wishing all of you a very happy holiday season

As we near the end of the year, I look back on another 12 issues of the *Carrier* and I'm rather disappointed at what I see. I have visions of the *Carrier* representing a cosmopolitan blend of the interests of the members, but what I see instead is page after page of meeting minutes, repeater operation rules, and other necessary, but boring, material.

I'd expect a lot more from a club with over 400 members. Rather than getting a diverse mix of articles from a wide cross-section of members, I seem to only get the usual stuff from a handful of people.

I'd like to see more membership participation in the *Carrier*. I'd like to see articles on ATV for beginners, a detailed description of the MDARC repeater system, how to get started in DXing, how to use the AX.25 support built into Linux, etc. I can think of dozens of article topics based just on the interests and expertise of MDARC members.



## NETS

### W6CX Nets

APRS Net      Tuesdays 1930 Hours  
 147.060/+ (100 PL)  
 Net Control: Barry, KC6WYA

Phone Net    Thursdays 1930 Hours  
 147.060/+ (100 PL)  
 Net Control: Jay Caldis, KT6Y

ATV Net       Thursdays 2000 Hours  
 Net Control: Mike Burke, KB6RMT  
 Alternate: Sylvia, KC6YJV

Youth Net     Thursdays 1900 Hours  
 147.060/+ (100 PL)  
 Net Control: Jeff Burke, KE6YAW

### Contra Costa County Emergency Services HF Net

First Thursday following first Wednesday, 2000 Hours, 3.895 MHz. Net Control: Richard Shappee, WA5HQJ

### Sheriff's Amateur Radio Communications Team

Clay Yale, N6YBQ  
 707-785-2402

### CCRA Net

**Mondays 1935 Hours**  
**147.735- 145.49- 145.41- PL: 107.2**

**CCCC Net      Thursdays 1930 Hours**  
**145.11- PL: 82.5**

### Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Nets

Thursdays, 1900 Hours

Central County    145.680 Simplex  
 Jim Brunk\*, N6BHX  
 (925) 372-8248

East County       146.535 Simplex  
 Jim Tittle\*, KC6SOE  
 (925) 432-3220

South County     146.355/+ (100 PL)  
 Ed Ritchie\*, K6SFD  
 (925) 837-3265

West County       145.110/-  
 Rich Parker\*, KD6JCT  
 (510) 237-2777

QSY to 147.735/- (107.2 PL) at 1920 Hours  
 Meeting of all County ARES/RACES Nets  
 Sam Lipson, District Emergency Coordinator, KO6JR  
 (925) 229-5705

\* Assistant District Emergency Coordinator

## W6CX Signal Strength Report Form

The Rocky Ridge Repeater Committee is trying to determine how our new antenna location has affected coverage. We would appreciate it if as many members as possible would fill out and return the attached form. If you operate from multiple locations, with multiple radios or antennas or on multiple MDARC repeaters, please copy the form and submit one for each location, radio, antenna and repeater. Please fill it out as completely as possible, but if there is some information you do not know don't let that stop you from sending it in. The more replies we can get the better we will be able to evaluate our coverage and make plans for improving it.

Please send your replies to Jim Brunk, N6BHX. Mailing address: 514 Palms Drive, Martinez, CA 94553. E-mail: brunk@ix.netcom.com or via the DesignLink BBS. This form is also available on the MDARC Web Page and on the DesignLink BBS.

If you are using a "beam" antenna, be sure it's pointed at the top of Mt. Diablo.

Which repeater? • 147.060    • 224.780    • 441.325

Length and type of coax (if any):  
 Type of receiver:

Your location (city and cross streets please):

Received signal strength:

Height of your antenna above ground:

Are you using a preamp?      If yes, how many dB gain?

Type of antenna:

Comments? (Please include any pertinent information such as if there is a big hill directly between you and the top of the mountain.)

Gain claimed by antenna mfr.:

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 6	1:00 pm	Sunnyvale VEC Exams Gene Capener, WW6H, 510-254-5090	Consolidated Fire Training Center 2945 Treat Blvd., Concord 1st Sunday even months
December 8	6:00 pm	MDARC Holiday Party	Our Savior's Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
December 29		January <i>Carrier</i> Deadline	

**The Carrier**  
**Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club**  
**P.O. Box 23222**  
**Pleasant Hill, CA 94523**

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**MDARC Holiday Party**

**December 8**